



"The Roost", New Harbor, Maine,
U.S.A.

June 25th, 1900.

My dear V. fan & Goldyphers,
Many thanks for the Abolische which
you were so good as to send to me. I have
read them with very great interest and profit.
The subject of the Shu'ubiya has always fascinated
me since I first stumbled over the name in
the introduction to the Umfassend and could
make nothing of it. I was trying to reach
the Umfassend without a teacher! What
you say also on pp. 646/7 has cleared up
several points that were obscure to me as
to the attitude of many Theologians towards
the fait accompli.

In ad-Damiri I came across recently a
very interesting letter said to have been addressed
by Saifyan ath-Thawri to Harun ar-Rashid
on his accession to the Khalifate; it denounces
his generally immoral life and his illegal
dealings with the public treasury. But
did not Saifyan die in 161? I notice
that (Situation, ii, p. 58) you refer to it
with a "so last man". It is one of the
most striking bits of chronological incursion
that I have ever found even among Muslims.

Kairo
VII 633

Recently I received from India a very interesting lithograph. It is a book purporting to be by Ab. Shazzale but not included in any bibliography I have seen. The title runs سر الحماطين وكشف ما في الدارين

وسرى السر المكنون. I have not had time yet to look into it with any care but in its present form at least, it seems certainly apocryphal. On p. 2 comes اول ما استنجد وقرئه على بالمدرسة

النظامية سرا من الناس في النبوة الثانية بعد رجوع من السفر رجل من ارض المغرب يقول له محمد بن توصرت (ع) من اهل سلمية وتوسمت فيه

That shows the character of the book and the present recension at least.

With this you should receive a popular lecture of mine on the development of Muslim jurisprudence. You will see how much I have been indebted to you in it but the plan of the lecture did not permit of foot-notes or references. Much developed it will form part of an elementary book I am writing on Muslim institutions. Please pardon the above lopus calami as p. 23.

Yours faithfully,

Samuel B. Mearns